

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EA-06 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01 VO-03

SCA-01 IO-10 FDRE-00 OPR-02 A-01 IGA-01 INSE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

SAB-01 /083 W

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O 091738Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3840

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 2726

FOR AMBASSADOR BROWN FROM AMBASSADOR JORDEN

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMG, PN

SUBJ: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: STATE 097854

1. REGRET DELAY IN RESPONDING TO YOUR MESSAGE. I HAD HOPED TO RAISE MATTER PERSONALLY WITH FONMIN TACK BUT THIS WAS PRECLUDED BY HIS QUICK TRIP TO SEVERAL SOUTH AMERICAN CAPITALS TO GARNER SUPPORT FOR PANAMANIAN POSITION ON NEW CANAL TREATY AND TO REQUEST BACKING FOR PANAMANIAN CANDIDACY FOR SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT. TACK RETURNED ONLY BRIEFLY BEFORE DEPARTING FOR OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND I WAS UNABLE TO SEE HIM ON VIETNAM REFUGEE PROBLEM OR VARIOUS OTHER IMPORTANT ITEMS.

2. DCM SAW ACTING FONMIN OZORES MAY 8 AND MADE ORAL DEMARCHE ALONG LINES OF YOUR INSTRUCTION. OZORES LISTENED CAREFULLY AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PLIGHT OF REFUGEES CALLED FOR LARGE-SCALE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN EFFORT ON THEIR BEHALF. OZORES WAS NON-COMMITTAL ABOUT GOP ATTITUDE TOWARD VIETNAMESE REFUGEES
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BUT SAID HE WOULD BRING MATTER TO ATTENTION OF GENERAL

TORRIJOS, PRESIDENT LAKAS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE GOP OFFICIALS. OZORES SAID HE WOULD ADVISE EMBASSY OF ANY GOP DECISION REGARDING REFUGEES.

3. WITH RESPECT TO YOUR REQUEST FOR RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW BEST TO MAXIMIZE POSSIBILITY FOR POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM PANAMA, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD KEEP IN MIND PANAMANIAN PREFERENCE NOT TO APPEAR TOO CLOSELY TIED TO USG POLICIES AND PROGRAMS PARTICULARLY DURING CURRENT CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS. WE SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER PANAMANIAN PENCHANT TO PLAY AN INCREASED LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THIRD WORLD CAUSES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (PANAMANIAN PARTICIPATION IN UN PEACE KEEPING FORCE IN MIDDLE EAST IS GOOD EXAMPLE). IN SUMMARY, AS FAR AS RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN CONCERNED, I BELIEVE THAT GOP WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY MORE RECEPTIVE TO APPEALS MADE BY UNHCR OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS THAN TO USG-LED EFFORTS. THE CONVERSATION WITH OZORES STRESSED THE NEED TO HELP THE REFUGEE RATHER THAN USG'S OWN INTEREST AND RESPONSIBILITY IN FINDING SOLUTIONS.

JORDEN

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Message Attributes

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